

PERMANENT SEASONAL POSITION OUTREACH

December 21, 2015



(Soldier Mountains, Fairfield Ranger District)

Sawtooth National Forest

Fairfield Ranger District, Ketchum Ranger District, and Minidoka Ranger District

Range Technician, GS-0455-5/6, 13/13

The Fairfield Ranger District, Ketchum Ranger District, and the Minidoka Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest will soon be advertising three permanent, full-time seasonal Range Technicians GS-0455-5/6 positions. These are 13/13 positions and are guaranteed at least 13 pay periods per year. The duty stations will be in Fairfield, Idaho, Ketchum, Idaho and Burley, Idaho.

This Outreach Notice is to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity. If you wish to be notified when these jobs are announced and open to application, please complete and submit the attached form by January 20, 2016 Outreach Response form by January 20, 2016, to one of the individuals listed on the Outreach form.

THE POSITIONS

These positions are supervised by the District Rangeland Management Specialist. The incumbent schedules and executes a variety of rangeland management support assignments related to range conservation programs. Assists in range capacity studies such as allotment analysis and production utilization studies. Using accepted indicator plants, determines range readiness dates. Conducts routine forage production studies, based on air-dry weight of vegetation. Monitors both short and long-range plans for compliance with range management goals and objectives. Assists in planning a wide variety of range-related projects such as revegetation, fencing, spring developments, cattle guard placement, and erosion control procedures. Makes recommendations for amendments to range management plans. Identifies plant specimens in the field and collects and prepares specimens. The incumbent will supervise the district's weed crew and participate in noxious weed plant control, seeding, or similar projects by flagging boundaries, operating equipment, and carrying out studies. The applicant will need to possess a valid state driver's license and have the ability to obtain a State of Idaho Pesticide Applicators License. The work involves exposure to dust, irritant chemicals, unpredictable

weather, and high noise levels. Specific safety precautions are required and the individual(s) will be required to use protective clothing. Some of the work may require camping and travel in remote areas. Hiking on uneven terrain with or without a backpack sprayer will be a regular part of the job. The use of saddle and pack stock is also necessary.

ABOUT THE AREAS

The Fairfield Ranger District is comprised of over 400,000 acres with lots of back country opportunities. The District maintains over 400 miles of trails (hiking, horseback and single track motorized), numerous campgrounds, fly fishing areas and plenty of other recreational opportunities. Winter recreation is also very popular, with over 50 miles of groomed snowmobile trails with endless backcountry opportunities and Soldier Mountain ski hill is located 12 miles north of town. Elevation ranges from 5,000 to over 10,000 feet. Summers are warm, with highs in the 90's and very little rainfall, great for camping and getting into the back country.

Fairfield is a small western town located on the Camas Prairie at the base of the Soldier Mountains. It has a population of about 400 people, with the population of Camas County being approximately 1,000. The area experiences all four seasons, but winters last about six months and are cold and snowy, occasionally dropping to 40 below zero. Summers are warm, with highs in the 90's and very little rainfall. The area has a friendly, casual atmosphere and year-round recreational opportunities. Agriculture continues to be the main employer in the County. Amenities include a general store, bank, a variety of churches, hardware/feed store, salon, newspaper and print shop and several restaurants and bars. Fairfield is the county seat of Camas County and is the location of the public school which has an enrollment of 150 to 200 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The Medical Clinic serves residents four days per week with a dentist, physician, and nurse practitioner. Fairfield is located approximately 70 miles north of Twin Falls, 100 miles southeast of Boise and 50 miles south west of Sun Valley.

There is no Government housing available. Housing within the community is somewhat limited with costs ranging from \$60,000 to \$200,000 for a three bedroom two bath house, and rentals ranging from \$400 - \$900 per month.

For more information regarding Fairfield, see: <http://www.fairfieldidaho.us/>

The Ketchum Ranger District is 330,000 acres and the office is located in Ketchum, Idaho on the north end of the Wood River Valley. The valley includes the communities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue. The area is known for its outstanding central Idaho mountains, scenery, and climate as well as its unlimited recreation opportunities. Popular summer activities include hiking, camping, backpacking, climbing, mountain biking, motor biking, and fishing. Winter recreation includes skiing at Sun Valley's Bald Mountain Ski Area, backcountry skiing, nordic and skate skiing on extensive trail systems, and snowmobiling trails. In addition to outdoor pursuits, the resort setting brings in a host of cultural events not normally found in small towns, including top musical artists, sporting events, and art festivals. Summertime temperatures rarely exceed 90 degrees and winter lows may dip below zero.

Schools are considered exceptional in the Wood River Valley for preschool and grades K-12. In addition, the College of Southern Idaho offers courses at the Hailey Campus. The area is served with a regional hospital with a full spectrum of local medical specialists. Shopping for all necessary goods can be done

in the valley, with the expanded services of most major shopping centers available in Twin Falls (1.5 hrs south), or Boise (3 hrs west).

The cost of housing in the Wood River Valley is considered high, with a median price for a single family home in Blaine County of \$383,500. Also, expect rental units to cost in the range of \$1,200-\$2,400 a month for a typical three bedroom home. Prices are higher in the north end of the valley and more moderate in the south end. Bunkhouse style and/or Government housing may be available.

The Minidoka Ranger District encompasses 604,000 acres in south central Idaho and northern Utah. The District has a large range and recreation program with developed recreation sites and two ski areas. The District also has active wildlife, timber, fire and minerals programs. Vegetation is as diverse as the uses on the District, going from low elevation sagebrush/grasslands to high elevation alpine forest and meadows.

Situated along the Snake River the City of Burley provides access to the 20 miles of the most approachable shoreline of the entire river. Located on both the south and north sides of the river, this access offers many opportunities for water sports and fishing. The city also has numerous parks and recreational facilities, including three golf courses. Burley serves as the major shopping center for the Mini-Cassia area. A temperate climate, beautiful scenery, numerous recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed without the large crowds typical of larger urban areas make this a desirable place to live.

The population of Burley is approximately 20,000 and is a full service community. Population within the immediate vicinity approaches 40,000. Numerous schools, churches and shopping opportunities exist within the Mini-Cassia (Minidoka and Cassia County) area, along with Cassia Regional Medical Center and Minidoka Memorial Hospital. Housing in Burley is very reasonable and would be considered cheap compared to other areas of the west. Burley is located just 35 miles from Twin Falls, which has a regional airport and most major shopping outlets.

If you have questions about any of these positions, please contact one of the following:

Fairfield Ranger District: Renee Kehler, rkehler@fs.fed.us (208) 764-3474

Ketchum Ranger District: Robert Garcia, rmgarcia@fs.fed.us (208) 622-0082

Minidoka Ranger District: Pete Gula, pagula@fs.fed.us (208) 677-8290

If you are interested in any of these positions, please complete and submit the Outreach Response form by January 20, 2016.